

Dear [editor name],

I understand that you have been invited to a forthcoming town hall event organized by the UC Davis Academic Senate to discuss open access (OA), cost reductions and the ongoing negotiations for a renewed agreement with Elsevier.

We are working hard to reach an agreement that supports the California Digital Library's ambitions and offers a sustainable solution to ensure that the UC system remains a competitive academic institution at the forefront of global research. By continuing to provide all campuses with access to the most current articles from Cell, the Lancet, Academic Press as well as all the other critically important Elsevier journals, we hope to continue to contribute to the success of the research and education missions of UC.

Elsevier is strongly supportive of authors having options regarding the model they publish under, including OA. We support OA, and we encourage you to read [one of the recent Editors' Update articles](#) on OA and also learn how Elsevier is supporting a more inclusive, collaborative and transparent world of research through [open science](#).

CDL wants to pay towards its authors publishing OA for the world to read freely but only pay a nominal amount to access the world's subscribed content. This model could work if this were an all-OA world. But the reality is that the world's subscribed content comprises 85% of scholarly output and continues to grow. Therefore, while CDL wants to fund OA, which we fully support, it still needs to pay to access subscribed content.

While we can't share specific details of the negotiations, we can assure you that we are continuing to provide incredible value to the UC system. For example:

- Each year, Elsevier's volume of content delivered increases by 4%, and its quality increases by 10%, so CDL pays increasingly *below* average prices for *above* average quality.
- Globally, Elsevier has had the lowest subscription price increases per journal among the major commercial publishers over the past 10 years.
- UC authors choose to publish with Elsevier more than any other major publisher, and their papers are read more and cited more when publishing with Elsevier.

We are making every effort to avoid a scenario where UC loses access to new Elsevier content after December 31st. We understand what CDL wants to accomplish and are working hard to construct an agreement that enables CDL to retain access to the highest quality subscribed content at a fair price and promotes OA in a realistic context.

We hope you consider these factors should you choose to engage in the discussion. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Publisher.

Finally, let me take the opportunity to thank you for our continuing partnership.

With best regards,

Philippe Terheggen
Managing Director Scientific, Technical and Medical Journals